

Serving Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock Counties



2021 Annual Report

Southwest Health & Human Services

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Message from the Director



I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report for Southwest Health and Human Services (SWHHS). Furthermore, I am honored to highlight and share the work of SWHHS staff and the collaboration with many, many community partners who help provide a universal, comprehensive continuum of care for residents of the six counties served by the agency. This report features the organization’s finance and performance highlights during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

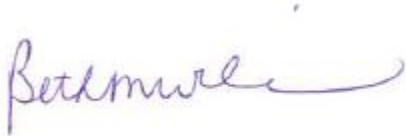
The annual report provides our community partners and families with the changes and highlights of the programs, services and resources offered and delivered to residents served by the six counties representing SWHHS during 2021.

This past year was another year unlike any other, and yet it was more important than ever that SWHHS remain committed to what has historically defined us as an organization of excellence: people, service, programs and resources.

More information about the organization and its programs and services can be found on the SWHHS website, swmhhs.com. We also often post updates and information on our Facebook page.

Thank you for allowing me to highlight the great work of SWHHS staff and community partners; together we strive to ensure adherence to our mission of strengthening individuals, families and communities by providing quality services in a respectful, caring and cost-effective manner.

Sincerely,



Beth M. Wilms
Director

Mission and Guiding Principles

Mission

Southwest Health and Human Services (SWHHS) is a multi-county agency committed to strengthening individuals, families, and communities by providing quality services in a respectful, caring, and cost-effective manner.

Guiding Principles

Respect

We treat people with dignity and consideration, and we listen openly to integrate a variety of perspectives and create environments that foster trust.

Honesty

We are truthful and responsible in our interactions with the public and each other. We demonstrate compassion, acceptance, and will safeguard dignity and confidentiality.

Trust

We are people of character and integrity who keep our word and honor our commitments, resulting in a safe environment for staff and clients.

Communication

We engage in timely, responsive, effective, and open information sharing to improve our work and maintain our reputation as a trusted source for program and service delivery.

Teamwork

We are committed to common goals based on open and honest communication while showing concern and support for each other.

Flexibility

We are an organization willing to learn, create innovative ideas, and adapt to the ever-changing environment while striving for a healthy work-life balance.

Structure and Governance

Southwest Health and Human Services is a joint-powers human services and public health agency covering Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock Counties in southwest Minnesota. The agency has six offices and employs 229 staff. The offices are located in Ivanhoe, Marshall, Slayton, Pipestone, Redwood Falls, and Luverne.

SWHHS provides essential services designed to protect and enhance the health and well-being of our six-county residents, especially our most vulnerable populations. The agency is made up of three key departments: Business Services, Social Services, and Public Health. Each of these departments play an important role in providing effective health and human services.

The Governing Board consists of two appointed County Commissioners from each of the member counties and by Minnesota statute, has responsibility for the development of an affordable system of care for all residents, especially, uninsured or underinsured children, families, and adults. The Human Services Governing Board has one layperson from each county who serves on the board.

2021 SWHHS Board

	Lincoln	Lyon	Murray	Pipestone	Redwood	Rock
Commissioner	Corey Sik	Charlie Sanow	Dave Thiner	Dan Wildermuth	Jim Salfer	Greg Burger
Commissioner	Steve Hauswedell	Rick Anderson	Dennis Welgraven	Les Nath	Rick Wakefield	Sherri Thompson
Layperson	Joan Jagt	Lois Schmidt	Jeane Anderson	Steve Schulze	Maydra Maas	None Appointed

Demographics

Population

73,641

Median Age

42.3 years

Income

- **\$58,391** Median Household Income
- **22.6%** Residents living below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$12,880 for 1st person + \$4,450 for each additional person) 2016-2020 American Community Survey
- **29.9%** Residents living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$25,760 for 1st person + \$9,080 for each additional person) (1) (2)

Education Among Residents Ages 25+

- **7.9%** No high school diploma
- **34.2%** High school diploma (including GED)
- **35.6%** Some college or Associate Degree
- **16.6%** Bachelor Degree
- **5.8%** Advance Degree (1)

Language

- **6.6%** Language other than English spoken at home (1)

Race

- **1.6%** Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaskan Native
- **2.6%** Non-Hispanic Asian alone
- **1.6%** Non-Hispanic Black or African American Alone
- **2.4%** Non-Hispanic Two or More Races
- **87.7%** Non-Hispanic White (1)

Ethnicity

- **5.2%** Hispanic Origin of any Race (1)

National Origin

- **4.6%** Foreign Born (1)

Gender*

- **49.4%** Male
- **50.6%** Female (1)

*other genders not available in US Census Data

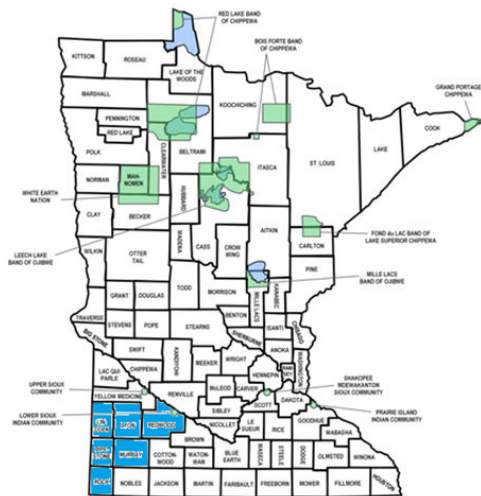
Disability

- **11.6%** Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population with a Disability (1)

Annual Unemployment Rate

- **2.9%** SWHHS Counties (3)
-2021, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Minnesota counties and tribal nations



2021 Actual Annual Budget (Audited)

	Human Services	Public Health	TOTAL
Revenues	\$ 27,626,381	\$ 4,405,368	\$ 32,031,749
Expenditures	\$ 26,787,512	\$ 3,616,827	\$ 30,404,339
Fund Balance	\$ 6,568,498	\$ 3,452,395	\$ 10,020,893

State Auditor recommends having 10 month of expenditure on hand. (4)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As indicated by the strategic plan, SWHHS began activities addressing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) to move the agency forward in becoming more welcoming and diverse for clients and staff.

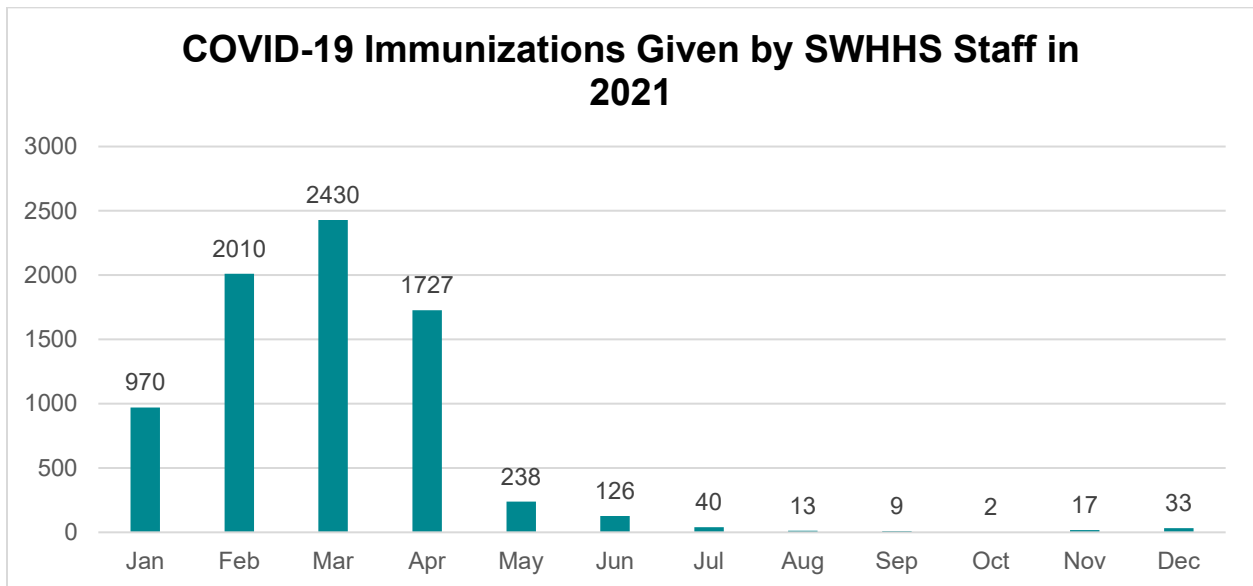


Staff participate in monthly opportunities to increase knowledge and do best practice around topics such as ableism, structural racism, bias in communities, health equity, sexual orientation, and more. Ten agency staff participated in a DEI Activator series.

Public Health

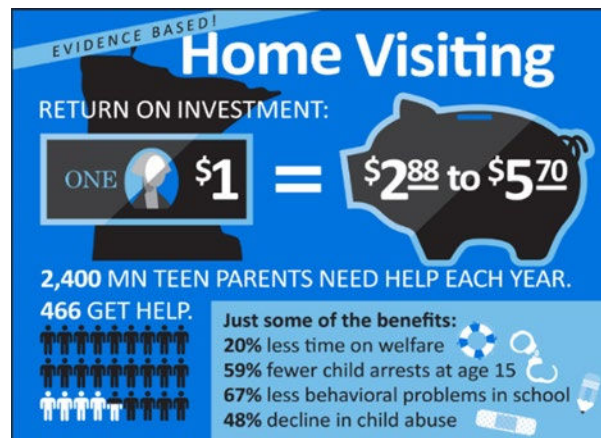
COVID-19 Immunizations

Starting December 30, 2020, public health began giving COVID-19 immunizations to tier one ambulance and first responder staff. In total public health would give 7,615 immunizations. The immunizations that public health provided were done to increase capacity in the community. SWHHS provides limited immunizations to under-served populations regularly and atypically in mass scale as was needed with COVID-19.



Family Home Visiting

A grant for family home visiting, called Strong Foundations, was awarded to Public Health. This grant will support staff in the evidence-based practice, called Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting (MECSH), and allows 22 additional families to be enrolled. Family home visiting programs based in evidence-based practice provides significant return on investment to communities through improved maternal newborn health, reduction in child injuries, abuse, neglect and/or maltreatment, improvements in school readiness and parent-child relationships, reduction of domestic violence, and economic self-sufficiency of families. (5)



Social Services

Social Services Intake

Cases in social services were up slightly in 2021. As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, most programs experienced the waiver ramp down and the return to meeting face-to-face for assessments and provide ongoing care coordination. Telehealth options continued in some instances but best practice indicates in person whenever possible.

Adult and Child Protection Intake

Mandated services, including adult and child protection, saw an increase in the number of assessments from the previous year. This was likely due to providers and family members not seeing consumers face-to-face and therefore not reporting concerns about vulnerable adults. There were 246 children placed in foster care in 2021, with most of those in traditional foster homes. SWHHS does have a high rate of relative foster care.



Opiate Allocation for Out-of-home Placement

The Department of Human Services (DHS) began providing an opiate allocation based on number of children in out of home placement related to parental chemical use.

A Circle of Hope began in the southern counties to support recovery. This was done through a partnership with Western Mental Health Center (WMHC). Families were assisted with housing, transportation and other basic needs.

Adult Services

MnCHOICES

MnCHOICES introduced a new assessment and support plan, which prompted onboarding requirements and training for assessors. Because of the state and federal health emergency orders due to COVID-19, those assessments typically completed in person were primarily done by phone and zoom meetings in 2021. While there were challenges of not being in person to do home assessments, this kept staff and clients safer while still providing and getting needed services. It also meant less travel time and decreased mileage costs.

Long Term Supports and Services

SWHHS staff were made aware of two nursing home closures in 2021. Divine Providence Nursing Home in Ivanhoe closed May 30, 2021 and Minneota Manor Nursing Home closed December 31, 2021. Both of these closed due to staffing shortages and less than adequate funding streams. SWHHS staff worked closely with these facilities to ensure a smooth transition for the residents. Unfortunately, many residents were moved to nursing homes out of the area, as our local community nursing homes did not have the capacity to take these additional residents.



Children’s and Family Services

Circle Program

Grant funding was renewed for the circle program, which resumed in 2021. Volunteer trainings took place as well as a school counselor training session at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU).

Children’s Mental Health



The placement process had significant changes in 2021 to better support children who need the services of a treatment facility. The Family First Prevention Services Act requires every child to have a Juvenile Treatment Screening Team (JTST) assessment completed prior to admission. This helps determine if the needs can effectively be addressed in the community or if a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) is an option. If indicated, a referral to DHS is made and a Qualified Individual (QI) assessor reviews the needs of the child,

providing a recommendation for the level of care for the child. If a child is admitted to a QRTP

facility, SWHHS must complete routine meetings to support the child and family through the treatment and reunification process.

Licensing

Due to a large donation from a local family, the Child Care Licensing program was able to acquire items for foster children and teens including sports equipment, fees for summer recreation programs, pool passes, swimming and skating lessons, senior photos and more.



Resources

For more information about programs and services, please call us at 1-888-837-6713 or refer to our SWHHS website at www.swmhhs.com.

Please follow us on Facebook for the latest on SWHHS news, programs, services and educational topics. <https://www.facebook.com/SouthwestHealthAndHumanServices>

References

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4. **Office of State Auditor.** Reports + Data Analysis: Local Government Special Districts. *Office of State Auditor*. [Online] September 14, 2022. [Cited: November 15, 2022.] <https://www.osa.state.mn.us/reports-data-analysis/local-government/special-districts/>.
5. **Minnesota Department of Health.** Family Home Visiting Program. *Family Home Visiting Program*. [Online] October 3, 2022. [Cited: November 15, 2022.] <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/fhv/index.html>.